Aston University

LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE

Module Specification

Please complete all sections of the form, referring to the guidance notes where necessary.

School and Subject Group	Engineering and Applied Science, Computer Science		
Module Code	CS4680		
Module Title	Professional Skills in Computing		
Module Type			
Module Replaces (where appropriate)	CS4680		
Date of introduction of new module	4 October 2010		
Level	MSc	Credit Value	10
Programme(s) in which module is available	MSc IT Project Management		
Involvement of Other Schools			

Resource Split		
Name of Module Co-ordinator		Anikó Ekárt
Related Modules	Pre-requisites	
	Co-requisites	
	Prohibited Combinations	
	Minimum and Maximum Intake Sizes	Maximum intake 40

Aims of the Module

To empower the students with the necessary skills to do literature search and review in the computing area
To prepare the students for professional presentation skills, both written and oral
To introduce the students to tools that can be used to prepare professional quality technical reports, presentation of results

Summary of Content

Online search, databases, e-books: 1 hour
Writing formats for different reports,referencing: 1 hour
Oral presentation: 1 hour
Poster presentation: 1 hour
Latex: 4 hours
Matlab: 4 hours
Discussion forums on selected Computing topics, relevant to IT project management: 8 hours

Summary of Methods and Frequency of Teaching

There will be 20 hours of contact with the lecturer, two hours per week for the duration of the teaching period. There will be a mixture of methods: lectures, practical lab sessions and online discussion forums.

Summary of Methods of Assessment and Feedback, including Formative Feedback

The module will have continuous assessment only, with three components:
-written: discussion forum entries (15%) and a written report (25%)
-oral presentation: on a chosen topic from list provided by lecturer, video-recorded and peer-assessed (40%)
-poster: on a chosen topic from list provided by lecturer (20%)

Instant feedback will be provided for discussion forum entries. Feedback on written report will be within 2 weeks of submission. Feedback on oral presentation will be given within one week from the presentation, as the peer assessment will be moderated by module tutor. The oral presentations will be video recorded and the recording made available to students for self-assessment. Feedback on poster will be provided within two weeks of submission.

Module Outcomes – what the student should gain from successful completion of the module:	Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
Knowledge and Understanding Practical knowledge of using library, electronic resources and other sources of information.	Lectures, practical work	Written report, oral presentation, poster
Intellectual Skills Accessing information and critically assessing it for its academic value	Practical work, online forums	Written report, oral presentation, poster
Professional/Subject Specific Skills The ability to select appropriate methodologies for developing software solutions or software project management solutions. The skills and information needed for continuing professional development	Lectures, practical work, online forums	Written report, oral presentation, poster
Transferable Skills Both oral and written presentation skills Giving critical review of a computing topic in a coherent, well-structured report and poster	Lectures, practical work, online forums	Written report, oral presentation, poster

Please provide either or both of:		
(i) Introductory Learning Resources		
(ii) Core Texts		Robert A. Day and Barbara Gastel: How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper, 6th edition, Greenwood Press, 2006. G. Fairbairn and C. Winch.: Reading, Writing and Reasoning: A Guide for Students. Open University Press, 2008.
Reading Lists	Attached/Not Attached	

Specification completed by:	Anikó Ekárt
Date	18 August 2010
Date module approved by Learning and Teaching Committee(s)	
Date module approved by School Board(s)	